NOVA SCOTIA

*Department of Finance*

# Consumer Price Index

# 1997

# CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1986 = 100
## JANUARY 1997 Release

| CPI & It's Components | Nova Scotia JAN '96 Index | Nova Scotia % Change from DEC '96 | Nova Scotia % Change from JAN '97 | Canada JAN '96 Index | Canada % Change from DEC '96 | Canada % Change from JAN '97 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Items** | 134.4 | -0.1 | 3.1 | 137.1 | 0.2 | 2.2 |
| Food | 136.1 | 0.6 | 4.4 | 129.5 | 0.5 | 2.2 |
| Shelter | 127.2 | -0.1 | 2.6 | 134.8 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| Household Operations & Furnishings | 123.0 | -0.1 | 2.5 | 125.5 | 1.0 | 1.9 |
| Clothing & Footwear | 128.7 | -0.7 | 0.9 | 130.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Transportation | 140.9 | -0.8 | 4.1 | 148.1 | -0.1 | 5.4 |
| Health & Personal Care | 133.6 | 0.8 | 1.7 | 137.6 | 0.2 | 1.3 |
| Recreation, Education & Reading | 141.8 | -0.6 | 2.8 | 146.2 | -0.3 | 3.0 |
| Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products | 151.4 | 0.1 | 2.8 | 149.3 | 0.3 | 3.0 |

## HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE DECEMBER 1996)

**Cities**

- The Halifax CPI index of 134.3 (1986=100) represented a 0.1% decrease from last month and a 2.8% increase over January 1996.

**Nova Scotia**

- The month-to-month movement in all-items CPI was -0.1%, the 12-month change displayed a +3.1% increase.
- Between December 1996 and January 1997 provincial CPIs ranged from a drop of 0.3% in Saskatchewan to an increase of 0.7% in Newfoundland.
- A large part of Nova Scotia's decline since December came from lower prices for gasoline, new cars, travel tours, footwear and women's clothing.
- Additional downward pressure came from lower prices for mortgage loans and household textiles.
- Partially offsetting these declines were higher food prices (especially pork, poultry, soft drinks, breakfast cereals, confectioneries and fresh vegetables).
- Consumers also paid more for men's and children's wear, personal care supplies and liquor purchased from stores.

**Canada**

- Canadians faced a +0.2% average price increase over last month and paid 2.2% more than in December 1996 to purchase a basket of goods and services.
- Since last month, there were increases in charges for telephone services food purchased from grocery stores, piped gas, women's clothing and cable television.
- Consumers paid less for mortgage interest charges, travel tours, footwear, new vehicles and air transportation.

Statistics Division
Nova Scotia Department of Finance
December 23, 1997

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1986 = 100
## FEBRUARY 1997 Release

| CPI & It's Components | Nova Scotia | | | Canada | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb. '97 Index | % Change from Jan.'97 | % Change from Feb.'96 | Feb. '97 Index | % Change from Jan.'97 | % Change from Feb.'96 |
| **All Items** | 134.6 | 0.1 | 3.1 | 137.3 | 0.1 | 2.2 |
| Food | 136.4 | 0.2 | 3.6 | 129.8 | 0.2 | 2.4 |
| Shelter | 126.7 | -0.4 | 2.2 | 134.7 | -0.1 | 0.3 |
| Household Operations & Furnishings | 123.3 | 0.2 | 2.2 | 125.5 | 0.0 | 1.6 |
| Clothing & Footwear | 131.1 | 1.9 | 3.2 | 131.6 | 1.1 | -0.3 |
| Transportation | 140.0 | -0.6 | 4.5 | 147.9 | -0.1 | 5.3 |
| Health & Personal Care | 134.1 | 0.4 | 2.4 | 138.1 | 0.4 | 1.5 |
| Recreation, Education & Reading | 143.3 | 1.1 | 3.5 | 147.2 | 0.7 | 3.0 |
| Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products | 151.8 | 0.3 | 2.8 | 149.9 | 0.4 | 3.2 |

## HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE JANUARY 1997)

**Cities**

- The Halifax CPI index of 134.5 (1986=100) represented a 0.1% increase over last month and was up 2.8% from February 1996.

**Nova Scotia**

- The month-to-month movement in all-items CPI was 0.1%. Increases in provincial CPIs varied from a this low of 0.1% increase in six provinces to a high of 0.4% in Quebec.
- B.C. (+0.9%) had the lowest CPI increase between February 1996 and February 1997. Manitoba (+3.2%), Nova Scotia (+3.1%) and Alberta (+3.1%) had the highest annual increases.
- A large part of the overall rise in consumer prices since last month resulted from higher prices for clothing (especially women's wear) and increased recreational charges (most notably for travel tours, home entertainment equipment and recreational equipment).
- Food prices were up (fresh vegetables, soft drinks and poultry).
- Shoppers paid more for furniture, household appliances and household textiles.
- Prices were up as well for cigarettes and personal care supplies.
- Offsetting these advances were lower transportation costs (particularly for air travel), gasoline and the purchase of new cars.
- Additional benefits came from lower prices for new homes, decreased mortgage interest costs and lower charges for long distance telephone services.

**Canada**

- For the third consecutive month, the Consumer Price Index annual inflation rate was 2.2%.
- Between January and February 1997, the all-items CPI edged up 0.1%.
- Some of the items that rose included clothing and footwear, gasoline, food, travel tours and traveller accommodation.
- These increases were largely offset by lower air fares, owned accommodation charges and telephone service payments.

Statistics Division
Nova Scotia Department of Finance
December 23, 1997

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1986 = 100
## MARCH 1997 Release

| CPI & It's Components | Nova Scotia | | | Canada | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Mar. '97 Index | % Change from Feb.'97 | % Change from Mar.'96 | Mar. '97 Index | % Change from Feb.'97 | % Change from Mar.'96 |
| **All Items** | 135.1 | 0.4 | 3.2 | 137.6 | 0.2 | 2.0 |
| Food | 136.3 | -0.1 | 3.6 | 129.8 | 0.0 | 2.1 |
| Shelter | 126.2 | -0.4 | 1.2 | 134.8 | 0.1 | 0.4 |
| Household Operations & Furnishings | 124.6 | 1.1 | 2.8 | 125.9 | 0.3 | 1.5 |
| Clothing & Footwear | 136.2 | 3.9 | 4.5 | 133.2 | 1.2 | 0.4 |
| Transportation | 140.2 | 0.1 | 5.9 | 148.0 | 0.1 | 4.4 |
| Health & Personal Care | 134.4 | 0.2 | 1.8 | 138.2 | 0.1 | 1.6 |
| Recreation, Education & Reading | 144.4 | 0.8 | 3.5 | 148.1 | 0.6 | 3.1 |
| Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products | 151.9 | 0.1 | 3.0 | 150.0 | 0.1 | 3.2 |

## HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE FEBRUARY 1997)

**Cities**

- For cities where the CPI index is recorded, the change from last month ranged from 0.7% in St. John's and Charlottetown/Summerside to no change in Montreal, while the Halifax City index (135.0) rose 0.4%.

**Nova Scotia**

- The month-to-month movement in all-items CPI rose +0.4%.
- Between February and March 1997, comparable monthly changes in provincial CPIs ranged from no change in Quebec to a 0.8% increase in Newfoundland.
- In March, consumers paid more for clothing and footwear, household equipment, paper products and pet supplies.
- Travellers paid more for packaged holiday trips and air transportation.
- New house prices were up, as was the cost of homeowners' maintenance and repairs.
- Consumers did benefit from lower prices for fuel oil and gasoline, a decline in the cost of mortgage loans and a slight decrease in food prices (lower prices for fresh vegetables, bakery products, beef and poultry).
- The 12-month change in the all-items CPI index was +3.2%.

**Canada**

- The CPI rose by 0.2% between February and March; it increased 2.0% between March 1996 and March 1997 (slightly lower than the 2.2% annual rates of inflation recorded in the previous three months).
- The major contributors to the monthly increase were clothing and footwear (a proportion of this associated with higher costs faced by garment manufacturers for polyester, cotton and spandex, as well as utilities), air travel, packaged travel tours, piped gas, cablevision services (Ontario and British Columbia) and household textile prices.
- Lower gasoline and fuel oil prices and reduced mortgage interest charges partially offset these increases.

Statistics Division
Nova Scotia Department of Finance
December 23, 1997

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1986 = 100
## APRIL 1997 Release

| CPI & It's Components | Nova Scotia | | | Canada | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | April '97 Index | % Change from Mar'97 | % Change from April'96 | April '97 Index | % Change from Mar'97 | % Change from April'96 |
| **All Items** | 135.3 | 0.1 | 2.7 | 137.6 | 0.0 | 1.7 |
| Food | 134.9 | -1.0 | 2.0 | 129.4 | -0.3 | 0.9 |
| Shelter | 127.5 | 1.0 | 1.9 | 134.7 | -0.1 | 0.4 |
| Household Operations & Furnishings | 121.4 | -2.6 | -0.4 | 125.9 | 0.0 | 1.6 |
| Clothing & Footwear | 142.1 | 4.3 | 8.6 | 134.6 | 1.1 | 2.0 |
| Transportation | 141.6 | 1.0 | 5.4 | 147.5 | -0.3 | 3.1 |
| Health & Personal Care | 135.6 | 0.9 | 2.8 | 139.3 | 0.8 | 1.9 |
| Recreation, Education & Reading | 144.3 | -0.1 | 2.9 | 148.3 | 0.1 | 3.0 |
| Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products | 149.6 | -1.5 | 1.4 | 150.0 | 0.0 | 3.1 |

## HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE MARCH 1997)

**On April 1, 1997, the Provincial Retail Sales Tax was harmonized with the Goods and Services Tax, at a rate of 15%. Previous provincial sales tax rates for most taxable commodities were 12% in Nfld. and 11% in N.S. and N.B. As these were applied to the price of the item including the GST of 7%, the combined sales tax rates were 19.84% in Nfld.and 18.77% in N.S. and N.B. Overall the tax changes were largely offsetting in N.S. and N.B. In Nfld., if prices had remained the same, the net result of these tax changes would have reduced consumer prices by a little more than half a percent.**

**Cities**

- The Halifax CPI index of 135.1 (1986=100) represented a 0.1 % increase over last month and was up 2.5% over April 1996.

**Nova Scotia**

- The month-to-month movement in all-items CPI was +0.1 %. Increases in provincial all-items CPI's since last month ranged from -1.0% in Nfld. to +0.1% in N.S., N.B., Que. and Ont. Nova Scotia displayed the highest provincial April 1996-April 1997 change, a +2.7 % increase.
- Commodities registering price increases this month were clothing and footwear (increase related to fourth consecutive month of price advances as well as April tax increase), fuel oil, electricity, gasoline, personal care services, recreational services, newspapers and postage.
- Dampening these advances were lower prices for restaurant meals, telephone services, household supplies, household furnishings, new vehicles and personal care supplies.
- Further downward pressure came from lower prices for recreational and home entertainment equipment, cablevision services, traveller accommodation and alcoholic beverages.
- Shoppers paid less for soft drinks, pork, fish and eggs at the grocery store.
- Homeowners benefited from lower prices for maintenance and repairs as well as from lower charges for mortgage loans.

**Canada**

- The all-items CPI was unchanged between March and April. The prices of the goods and services contained in the CPI basket rose by 1.7% between April 1996 and April 1997.
- Six provinces introduced sales tax changes in late March and April. Nfld., N.S. and N.B. merged their provincial retail sales taxes with the federal Goods and Services Tax under the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST). Sask. lowered its provincial sales tax rate by 2%, P.E.I. and Que. increased taxes on gasoline and cigarettes respectively.
- Shoppers paid 1.1% more for clothing and 1.9% more for footwear in April (a small part of the advance was related to tax increases in the Atlantic provinces.)

- Price advances were also noted in dental care, hotel/motel accommodation, newspapers and magazines.
- Natural gas charges fell (summer rates introduced in Ont., Alta. and B.C.).
- A 1.5% decline in gasoline prices pulled down transportation costs.
- The downward pressure on food came from lower prices for fresh vegetables, bananas, soft drinks and bakery products.

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Statistics Division
Nova Scotia Department of Finance
May 15, 1997

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1986 = 100
## MAY 1997 Release

| CPI & It's Components | Nova Scotia May '97 Index | Nova Scotia % Change from April'97 | Nova Scotia % Change from May'96 | Canada May '97 Index | Canada % Change from April'97 | Canada % Change from May'96 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Items** | 135.2 | -0.1 | 1.4 | 137.7 | 0.1 | 1.5 |
| Food | 134.5 | -0.3 | 1.5 | 129.9 | 0.4 | 1.6 |
| Shelter | 127.9 | 0.3 | 2.1 | 134.4 | -0.2 | 0.1 |
| Household Operations & Furnishings | 121.8 | 0.3 | -1.4 | 125.7 | -0.2 | 1.4 |
| Clothing & Footwear | 140.1 | -1.4 | 4.9 | 133.5 | -0.8 | 1.5 |
| Transportation | 141.2 | -0.3 | 0.6 | 147.5 | 0.0 | 1.8 |
| Health & Personal Care | 135.9 | 0.2 | 2.6 | 139.2 | -0.1 | 1.8 |
| Recreation, Education & Reading | 144.2 | -0.1 | 1.7 | 149.7 | 0.9 | 2.7 |
| Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products | 150.0 | 0.3 | 1.4 | 151.0 | 0.7 | 3.2 |

## HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE APRIL 1997)

**Cities**

- The Halifax CPI index of 135.1 (1986=100) did not change from last month and represented a 1.4% increase over the same month a year ago.

**Nova Scotia**

- The month-to-month movement in all-items CPI was -0.1%, the 12-month change displayed an increase of 1.4 %.
- Between May 1996 and May 1997, increases in provincial CPIs ranged from a low of 0.9% in B.C. to a high of 2.4% in Manitoba. Between April and May 1997, the monthly CPI changes for provinces ranged from a decline of 0.4% in P.E.I. to increases of 0.4% in both Manitoba and B.C.
- Since last month, clothing and footwear prices were lower, food prices declined overall (beef, fresh vegetables, bakery products), motorists benefited from lower prices for gasoline, air travellers enjoyed lower air fares and consumers paid less for fuel oil, household equipment and recreational vehicles.
- New house purchasers paid more for their homes, travellers faced increased prices for hotel and motel accommodation consumers paid more for telephone services, taxi fares and alcoholic beverages.

and

**Canada**

- Canadians faced a 1.5% average price increase for the goods/services contained in the CPI basket between May 1996 and May 1997.
- Between April and May 1997, the CPI rose 0.1%.
- Most of the upward thrust since last month came from higher prices for recreation (travel accommodation, golf/fishing equipment, summer recreational vehicles, golf course fees), food (fresh fruit, i.e., oranges, bananas; port and pork products), vehicle registration ($28 registration fee increase in Quebec), gasoline (normal rise experienced at beginning of summer actually 5.4% less than in May 1996), alcoholic beverages (beer purchased from stores and served beer/liquor) and (mainly due to tax April tax increase in Quebec).

season
cigarettes

- Partially offsetting these increases were lower prices for women's clothing (specials/sales offered by several large dept. across the country typical May trend), shelter (lower mortgage interest charges, homeowners' maintenance/repair charges fuel oil prices) and air transportation (seat-sale fares on western domestic routes and larger number of seat sales on domestic and southern routes).

stores
and

Statistics Division
Nova Scotia Department of Finance
December 23, 1997

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1986 = 100
## JUNE 1997 Release

| CPI & It's Components | Nova Scotia June '97 Index | Nova Scotia % Change from May'97 | Nova Scotia % Change from June'96 | Canada June '97 Index | Canada % Change from May'97 | Canada % Change from June'96 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Items** | 135.0 | -0.1 | 1.6 | 138.0 | 0.2 | 1.8 |
| Food | 133.0 | -0.1 | 0.2 | 130.4 | 0.4 | 1.4 |
| Shelter | 127.7 | -0.2 | 1.8 | 134.5 | 0.1 | 0.4 |
| Household Operations & Furnishings | 120.9 | -0.7 | -2.3 | 125.5 | -0.2 | 0.8 |
| Clothing & Footwear | 139.4 | -0.5 | 8.0 | 132.7 | -0.6 | 2.6 |
| Transportation | 142.3 | 0.8 | 2.0 | 148.0 | 0.3 | 2.9 |
| Health & Personal Care | 134.9 | -0.7 | 2.0 | 139.6 | 0.3 | 2.3 |
| Recreation, Education & Reading | 145.2 | 0.7 | 2.7 | 151.4 | 1.1 | 3.8 |
| Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products | 149.9 | -0.1 | 1.1 | 151.3 | 0.2 | 3.3 |

## HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE MAY 1997)

**Cities**

- The Halifax CPI index of 134.9 (1986=100) represented a decrease of 0.1% from last month and was up 1.4 % over June 1996.

**Nova Scotia**

- The month-to-month movement in all-items CPI was -0.1%, the 12-month change displayed a +1.6% increase. Among the provinces, PEI showed the smallest annual movement (+0.7%) and Manitoba experienced the largest annual inflation (+2.6%).
- Consumer prices decreased in June due largely to lower overall prices for food from stores.
- Also contributing to the decline were lower prices for home furnishings, new homes, mortgage interest costs, men's and women's clothing, personal care supplies and prescribed medicines.
- Mostly offsetting these price declines were higher prices for gasoline, traveller accommodation, children's clothing and footwear.

**Canada**

- Canadians faced a 1.8% average price increase between June 1996 and June 1997.
- In monthly terms, the all-items CPI rose by +0.2% in June.
- The most impact came from higher traveller accommodation rates (due in part to higher summer rates and special events, i.e.,Formula One auto race in Montreal and John Cabot's landing celebrations in St. John's).
- Other increases were noted for food (fresh vegetables, poultry, coffee and the cost of dining out), gasoline, air travel (fare increases on routes to the U.S.) and a number of personal-care products.
- Clothing and recreational equipment prices declined.
- Owned accommodation charges showed no overall change. Lower mortgage interest costs were offset by higher charges for maintenance and repairs, partly due to higher labour rates in recent months.

Statistics Division
Nova Scotia Department of Finance
December 23, 1997

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1986 = 100
## JULY 1997 Release

| CPI & It's Components | Nova Scotia | | | Canada | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | July '97 Index | % Change from June'97 | % Change from July'96 | July '97 Index | % Change from June'97 | % Change from July'96 |
| **All Items** | 135.2 | 0.1 | 2.2 | 138.0 | 0.0 | 1.8 |
| Food | 135.1 | 1.6 | 1.0 | 131.0 | 0.5 | 2.1 |
| Shelter | 127.7 | 0.0 | 1.8 | 134.5 | 0.0 | 0.3 |
| Household Operations & Furnishings | 120.6 | -0.2 | -2.6 | 125.4 | -0.1 | 0.7 |
| Clothing & Footwear | 137.7 | -1.2 | 9.5 | 131.4 | -1.0 | 1.5 |
| Transportation | 141.7 | -0.4 | 5.1 | 147.2 | -0.5 | 3.4 |
| Health & Personal Care | 135.0 | 0.1 | 1.8 | 139.3 | -0.2 | 2.0 |
| Recreation, Education & Reading | 146.3 | 0.8 | 2.1 | 152.3 | 0.6 | 2.1 |
| Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products | 150.0 | 0.1 | 1.2 | 150.6 | -0.5 | 2.9 |

## HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE JUNE 1997)

**Cities**

- Halifax's July all-items index of 135.1 rose 0.1% over last month and was 2.0% higher than July 1996.

**Nova Scotia**

- There was a marginal increase of 0.1% in the all-items CPI since last month; the 12-month change was +2.2%.
- Grocery shoppers paid more for such items as beef, fresh vegetables, bread, fresh fruit, breakfast cereal and fish.
- Traveller accommodation, air transportation and women's clothing prices were up.
- Lower prices were experienced for gasoline, footwear, children's clothing, pork, new vehicles, mortgage loans and for pet food & supplies.
- Between June and July 1997, monthly changes in provincial all-items CPIs ranged from declines of 0.1% in Que., Man. & BC to an increase of 0.4% in Nfld. From July 1996 to July 1997 increases ranged from a low of 0.9% in PEI and BC to a high of 2.5% in Nfld.

**Canada**

- Overall, consumer prices did not change between June and July; compared with July last year Canada all-items CPI rose 1.8%.
- Lower prices were noted for:
  -new cars (mfgrs. introduced or increased rebates in July that resulted in the largest mid-year decreases of the decade)
  -gasoline (some portion of this decline can be explained by the behaviour of crude oil prices)
  -clothing and footwear (declines mostly seasonal in nature)
  -beer (the store purchase price dropped mostly because of price wars between two key manufacturers in Ontario)
- Offsetting the lower prices were increases for:
  -air travel
  -traveller accommodation (peak summer price levels were only slightly higher than those of last summer)
  -food

Statistics Division
Nova Scotia Department of Finance
December 23, 1997

NOVA SCOTIA

**Department of Finance**
**Fiscal & Economic Policy**
***Statistics***

*September 19, 1997*

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1986 = 100
## AUGUST 1997 Release

| CPI & It's Components | Nova Scotia AUG. '97 Index | Nova Scotia % Change from JULY'97 | Nova Scotia % Change from AUG.'96 | Canada AUG. '97 Index | Canada % Change from JULY'97 | Canada % Change from AUG.'96 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Items** | 135.8 | 0.4 | 2.3 | 138.2 | 0.1 | 1.8 |
| Food | 135.7 | 0.4 | 1.3 | 130.1 | -0.7 | 1.7 |
| Shelter | 127.6 | -0.1 | 1.8 | 134.3 | -0.1 | 0.3 |
| Household Operations & Furnishings | 120.9 | 0.2 | -2.3 | 125.4 | 0.0 | 0.6 |
| Clothing & Footwear | 142.0 | 3.1 | 10.8 | 134.1 | 2.1 | 2.4 |
| Transportation | 142.8 | 0.8 | 5.2 | 148.6 | 1.0 | 4.1 |
| Health & Personal Care | 135.0 | 0.0 | 1.7 | 139.2 | -0.1 | 1.8 |
| Recreation, Education & Reading | 146.3 | 0.0 | 2.2 | 152.3 | 0.0 | 2.1 |
| Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products | 149.7 | -0.2 | 1.0 | 151.3 | 0.5 | 3.4 |

## HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE JULY 1997)

**Cities**

- The Halifax CPI index of 135.6 (1986=100) rose 0.4% over last month and increased 2.1% over August 1996.

**Nova Scotia**

- Between August 1996 and August 1997, increases in provincial CPIs ranged from 1.1% in B.C. to 2.3% in NS and Nfld. Nova Scotia's high rate of inflation was largely associated with significant increases in its index for clothing, fuel oil, electricity and gasoline.
- Monthly changes in provincial CPIs for August varied from declines of 0.1% in Nfld., Man. & Sask. to an increase of 0.4% in Nova Scotia.
- Since last month in Nova Scotia, food prices advanced rather than declined (fresh fruit, pork, ham and bacon), transportation costs were higher (gasoline) and clothing prices rose (women's & men's and footwear) above the national average.
- Consumers also paid more for household chemical products.
- Lower charges were recorded for mortgage loans and personal care supplies.

**Canada**

- CPI edged up 0.1% between July and August 1997. The annual rate of 1.8% was identical to those of June and July.
- Consumers paid more for:
  -gasoline (notable price increased were observed in B.C., Ont., Que. & NS. Reasons given for sharp rise in August-- problems in New Jersey & Texas, unexpected and unusual summer demand and a trend among refiners to hold small refinery quantities of gasoline in inventory).
  -clothing & footwear (in particular women's clothing. As well, discounted prices returning to regular levels).
  -alcoholic beverages purchased from stores (largely due to rise in price of beer purchased from stores).
- Shoppers paid less for food purchased from stores (domestic supplies, fresh fruit, bakery and cereal products).
- Shelter charges fell in August mainly due to the continuing declines in mortgage interest costs and to lower prices for home maintenance and repairs and piped natural gas.

NOVA SCOTIA **Department of Finance**
**Fiscal & Economic Policy**
***Statistics***

*October 22, 1997*

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1986 = 100
## SEPTEMBER 1997 Release

| | Nova Scotia | | | Canada | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CPI & It's Components | SEPT. '97 Index | % Change from AUG.'97 | % Change from SEPT.'96 | SEPT. '97 Index | % Change from AUG.'97 | % Change from SEPT.'96 |
| **All Items** | 135.8 | 0.0 | 2.1 | 138.1 | -0.1 | 1.6 |
| Food | 134.8 | -0.7 | 1.0 | 129.1 | -0.8 | 1.3 |
| Shelter | 127.5 | -0.1 | 1.4 | 134.2 | -0.1 | 0.1 |
| Household Operations & Furnishings | 121.2 | 0.2 | -2.7 | 126.0 | 0.5 | 1.0 |
| Clothing & Footwear | 140.3 | -1.2 | 6.9 | 133.9 | -0.1 | 1.3 |
| Transportation | 143.8 | 0.7 | 5.7 | 148.8 | 0.1 | 4.1 |
| Health & Personal Care | 134.6 | -0.3 | 2.0 | 139.1 | -0.1 | 1.7 |
| Recreation, Education & Reading | 147.3 | 0.7 | 2.4 | 153.0 | 0.5 | 2.1 |
| Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products | 150.0 | 0.2 | 1.4 | 151.4 | 0.1 | 3.3 |

## HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE AUGUST 1997)

**Cities**

- The Halifax CPI index of 135.6 (1986=100) showed no change from last month and increased 1.9% over September 1996.

**Nova Scotia**

- Between September 1996 and September 1997, increases in provincial CPIs ranged from 0.7% to 2.2%. PEI (0.7%), Sask.(0.8%) and BC (0.9%) were at the lower end of the scale, while NB (2.2%), NFLD (2.1%), NS (2.1%) and Ont (2.0%) were at the upper range of increase.
- Changes in provincial CPIs between August and September ranged from -0.4% in PEI to +0.4% in NB. Nova Scotia's all-items index was unchanged from last month.
- Since last month, Nova Scotia registered large price increases for gasoline, the rental of vehicles, university tuition, selected household appliances, household textiles and footwear.
- Opposing movements were found in price declines for food (fresh produce, pork and chicken), clothing (women's, men's and children's clothing) and fuel oil.

**Canada**

- In September, consumers paid on average 0.1% less than in August for the goods and services in the CPI basket. Since September of last year, they have seen an average price increase of 1.6%.
- The monthly decline was largely due to:
  - lower prices for fresh produce (fresh vegetable and fruit prices fell along with beef, pork, soft drinks and breakfast cereals)
  - savings for shelter (declines in mortgage interest charges which have been declining for almost two years and a drop in fuel oil prices related to weaker wholesale prices)
  - clothing (prices of children's and men's clothing fell)
  - recreation and inter-city transportation (seasonal drop in traveller accommodation charges and declines for air and ferry travel, computers and cablevision service)
- Partially offsetting these declines were higher charges for university tuition (on average 9.0% higher than for the previous academic year), household furnishings (higher prices for furniture and household textiles), gasoline, vehicle rentals and beer purchased from stores.

NOVA SCOTIA

**Department of Finance**
**Fiscal & Economic Policy**
***Statistics***

*NOVEMBER 19, 1997*

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1986 = 100
## OCTOBER 1997 Release

| | Nova Scotia | | | Canada | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CPI & It's Components | OCT. '97 Index | % Change from SEPT.'97 | % Change from OCT.'96 | OCT. '97 Index | % Change from SEPT.'97 | % Change from OCT.'96 |
| **All Items** | 135.9 | 0.1 | 1.6 | 138.2 | 0.1 | 1.5 |
| Food | 134.5 | -0.2 | -0.1 | 129.3 | 0.2 | 0.8 |
| Shelter | 128.0 | 0.4 | 1.1 | 134.4 | 0.1 | -0.2 |
| Household Operations & Furnishings | 122.0 | 0.7 | -1.2 | 126.1 | 0.1 | 1.4 |
| Clothing & Footwear | 142.5 | 1.6 | 7.0 | 135.6 | 1.3 | 2.0 |
| Transportation | 142.4 | -1.0 | 3.6 | 147.8 | -0.7 | 3.3 |
| Health & Personal Care | 134.3 | -0.2 | 0.8 | 139.5 | 0.3 | 1.9 |
| Recreation, Education & Reading | 147.1 | -0.1 | 1.7 | 152.7 | -0.2 | 2.1 |
| Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products | 150.7 | 0.5 | 1.7 | 151.9 | 0.3 | 3.5 |

## HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE SEPTEMBER 1997)

**Cities**

- The October 1997 Halifax CPI index of 135.8 was +0.1% over last month and up 1.5% over the same month a year ago.

**Nova Scotia**

- In monthly terms, changes in provincial CPIs in October ranged from a decline of 0.3% in B.C. to a rise of 0.4% in P.E.I. compared to movement of +0.1% in Nova Scotia. Between October 1996 and October 1997, increases in CPIs ranged from 0.6% in B.C. to 1.9% in Alta., while in Nova Scotia the 12-month change was +1.6%.

into
increase

- Most of the rise in October's CPI resulted from increased charges for property taxes (property tax changes are introduced the CPI once a year in October and in Nova Scotia the increase appeared to result from a general reassessment and an in the budgets of local authorities), higher prices for clothing, household furnishings, recreational equipment, paper supplies and beer.
- Dampening the overall advance were declines in gasoline prices, air fares and traveller accommodation.
- A decline in food prices was reflected in lower prices for soft drinks, poultry, fresh produce and dairy products.

**Canada**

- Between October 1996 and October 1997, Canadian consumers saw a 1.5% increase in the price of the basket of goods and services making up CPI. Between September and October 1997, the all-items CPI showed a modest 0.1% rise.
- Since last month, higher clothing and footwear prices, property taxes, piped gas rates and food and alcohol prices pushed the CPI upwards.
- These increases were offset by lower prices for gasoline, traveller accommodation, air transportation, mortgage loans, homeowners' maintenance and repairs and furniture.

NOVA SCOTIA
Department of Finance
Fiscal & Economic Policy
*Statistics*

*December 19, 1997*

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1986 = 100
## NOVEMBER 1997 Release

| CPI & It's Components | Nova Scotia NOV. '97 Index | Nova Scotia % Change from OCT.'97 | Nova Scotia % Change from NOV.'96 | Canada NOV. '97 Index | Canada % Change from OCT.'97 | Canada % Change from NOV.'96 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Items** | 135.7 | -0.1 | 1.0 | 138.0 | -0.1 | 0.9 |
| Food | 136.2 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 130.5 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Shelter | 127.7 | -0.2 | 0.6 | 134.4 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Household Operations & Furnishings | 120.9 | -0.9 | -1.8 | 125.6 | -0.4 | 1.2 |
| Clothing & Footwear | 139.6 | -2.0 | 5.8 | 133.5 | -1.5 | 1.4 |
| Transportation | 143.0 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 148.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Health & Personal Care | 135.5 | 0.9 | 1.9 | 139.9 | 0.3 | 1.8 |
| Recreation, Education & Reading | 144.9 | -1.5 | 1.1 | 149.9 | -1.8 | 1.6 |
| Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products | 151.0 | 0.2 | 1.9 | 152.4 | 0.3 | 3.8 |

## HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE OCTOBER 1997)

**Cities**

- The Halifax all-items index of 135.6 (1986=100) declined 0.1% from last month and was 1.0% higher than the same month last year. For cities in Canada reporting CPI, the October to November 1997 change in all-items CPI ranged from +0.2% in Vancouver to -0.4% in Toronto.

**Nova Scotia**

- Between November 1996 and November 1997, increases in provincial CPIs ranged from +0.1% in Saskatchewan to +1.4% in Alberta. Nova Scotia registered a +1.0% change. Month-to-month movement in the CPI for most provinces ranged between -0.1% (including Nova Scotia) and +0.1%.
- Since last month, Nova Scotia noted lower prices for traveller accommodation, cablevision services, clothing and household furnishings, homeowners' repairs, mortgage loans and new houses.
- Largely offsetting these declines were higher prices for food (fresh vegetables, poultry, breakfast cereal, bread & processed meats), new 1998 model vehicles, air travel and personal care supplies.

**Canada**

- Consumers across Canada saw the prices of goods and services making up the CPI rise by an average +0.9% between November of last year and November of this year; however, between October and November the CPI fell 0.1%.
- lower — Noteworthy in the small monthly decline in CPI in November were a seasonal decline in traveller accommodation rates, charges for gasoline (in all provinces except PEI), clothing, cablevision services (suppliers offered new channels without additional charges until the new year), owned accommodation (declines in mortgage interest charges, maintenance and repair charges) and selected household furnishings.
- on — Higher prices were noted for food (particularly tomatoes & lettuce), new model vehicles, air transportation (fare increases domestic & Caribbean destinations, cancellation of some seat sales) and piped gas (substantial price increases in BC and ALTA).

NOVA SCOTIA **Department of Finance**
**Fiscal & Economic Policy**
*Statistics*

*January 22, 1998*

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1986 = 100
## DECEMBER 1997 Release

| | Nova Scotia | | | Canada | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CPI & It's Components | DEC. '97 Index | % Change from NOV.'97 | % Change from DEC.'96 | DEC. '97 Index | % Change from NOV.'97 | % Change from DEC.'96 |
| **All Items** | 135.5 | -0.1 | 0.7 | 137.8 | -0.1 | 0.7 |
| Food | 136.7 | 0.4 | 1.0 | 130.4 | -0.1 | 1.2 |
| Shelter | 127.8 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 134.5 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Household Operations & Furnishings | 121.7 | 0.7 | -1.1 | 126.0 | 0.3 | 1.4 |
| Clothing & Footwear | 134.1 | -3.9 | 3.5 | 131.7 | -1.3 | 1.3 |
| Transportation | 142.9 | -0.1 | 0.6 | 147.8 | -0.2 | -0.3 |
| Health & Personal Care | 135.3 | -0.1 | 2.0 | 140.1 | 0.1 | 2.0 |
| Recreation, Education & Reading | 144.1 | -0.6 | 1.1 | 149.0 | -0.6 | 1.6 |
| Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products | 151.1 | 0.1 | -0.1 | 152.3 | -0.1 | 2.3 |

## HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE NOVEMBER 1997)

**Cities**

- The Halifax CPI index of 135.4 (1986=100) declined 0.1 % from last month and increased 0.7% over December 1996.

**Nova Scotia**

- Between December 1996 and December 1997, increases in provincial CPIs ranged from 0.1 % to 1.4%. Sask(0.1%), BC(0.4%), and PEI(0.5%) were at the lower end of the scale, while Alta(1.4%), NFLD(1.0%), NB(1.0%), and Que(1.0%) were at the upper range of increase.
- Changes in provincial CPIs between November and December ranged from -0.6 % in PEI to 0.1 % in Alta . Nova Scotia's all-items index declined 0.1% from last month.
- Since last month, Nova Scotia registered large price increases for household furnishings, food(fresh produce, beef, chicken and fish), household maintenance and repair, and air fares.
- Opposing movements were found in price declines for clothing, footwear, hotel and motel accommodations, recreational equipment, vehicle rentals, gasoline, and mortgage loans.
- The 1997 annual average was 135.3 which was a 2.1% increase over 1996.

**Canada**

- In December, consumers paid on average 0.1 % less than in November for the goods and services in the CPI basket. Since December of last year, they have seen an average price increase of 0.7%.
- The monthly decline was largely due to:
  -clothing(prices of men's and women's as well as footwear fell)
  -gasoline(crude oil prices are at their lowest level in two years)
  -traveller accommodation and vehicle rental charges(related to the introduction of winter rates)
  -mortgage interest costs continued to fall in December
  -food(slight decrease in food was related to price declines for lettuce, poultry and store bought non-alcoholic beverages)
- Partially offsetting these declines were higher charges for air fares, natural gas(increased by at least 3% in December), shelter(higher prices for new houses) and household furnishings(higher prices for furniture).
- The 1997 annual average is 137.8. Between 1996 and 1997, the annual change for all items was 1.6% which was unchanged from the previous year. Annual changes have been flat and consistent since 1992 ranging from 0.2% in 1994 to 2.1% in 1995.